

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A steam cooking apparatus, comprising:

a cabinet;

a heating chamber in which food is placed;

a steam generating device;

a sub-cavity provided in a ceiling part of the heating chamber;

heating means provided inside the sub-cavity;

an upper jet hole formed in a floor panel of the sub-cavity;

a side jet hole provided in a lower part of each side wall of the heating chamber, the side jet hole jetting out steam in a lateral direction of the heating chamber;

a duct connecting between the sub-cavity and the side jet hole; and

a fan that increases strength of steam jetted out through the upper jet hole and the side jet hole;

a suction port for sucking in steam inside the heating chamber;

an outer circulation passage connecting between the suction port and the sub-cavity;

an exhaust port provided on the outer circulation passage;

a damper arranged in the outer circulation passage for opening and closing a passage leading to the exhaust port; and

supporting means supporting the food inside the heating chamber and spaced apart from a floor surface of the heating chamber,

wherein steam generated by the steam generating device is introduced into the sub-cavity and is heated by the heating means, and then part of the steam is jetted out through the upper jet

hole toward the food while the rest of the steam is guided through the duct to the side jet hole to be jetted out through the side jet hole toward the food, and

the side jet hole is located below the supporting means, such that the steam from each side jet hole enters into a space defined by and below the supporting means, flows in the lateral direction under the supporting means, and meets under the food, and

the steam inside the heating chamber circulates through a circulation path by flowing into the outer circulation passage via the suction port, then flowing through the sub-cavity, and then flowing back into the heating chamber.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The steam cooking apparatus of claim 1,
wherein the side jet hole is so positioned and/or directed that the steam jetted out from each side meets under the food.

4.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The steam cooking apparatus of claim 1,
wherein a total area of the side jet hole is larger than a total area of the upper jet hole.

9.-17. (Canceled)